

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 OPIC-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 /045 W

-----080044 121515Z /53

R 120821Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WABHDC 1089

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USDA WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

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RABAT FOR KUHL, ATHENS FOR RTDO, DEPT PASS OPIC,  
CASABLANCA FOR FOLSOM

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EINV, OPIC, TS

SUBJ: VISIT OF AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL: TRIP REPORT

1. SUMMARY. MESSRS. MERRILL AND GRASBERG, AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL OF NEW YORK AND MR. DONALD M. TAYLOR, TADCO ENTERPRISES OF WASHINGTON, D.C., VISITED TUNISIA FOR VARIOUS LENGTHS OF TIME DURING THE PERIOD APRIL 20-MAY 6. THEY MET TWICE WITH EZZEDDINE CHELBI, CHEF DE CABINET (SECOND MAN) IN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WITH MONCEF BELKHOJA, PRESIDENT OF B.N.T. (STATE-CONTROLLED COMMERCIAL BANK WITH AGRICULTURAL VOCATION) AND MR. MERRILL MET WITH HIBIB BOURGUIBA, JR., SPECIAL COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT AND PRESIDENT OF BDET (INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK). NUMBER OF OTHER INTERVIEWS AND TWO FIELD TRIPS CONDUCTED. INVESTIGATIONS OF VARIOUS AGRIBUSINESS PROJECTS CONTINUE, ALTHOUGH SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE ONLY ON INTEGRATED BEEF/MILK PROJECT. END SUMMARY.

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2. AGRIBUSINESS COUNCIL CONTINUED TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF US-TUNISIAN JOINT VENTURES IN FIELDS OF EARLY FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, FROZEN FISH AND OTHER

FROZEN FOOD PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT, AND AN INTEGRATED  
PROJECT FOY MILK AND BEEF.

3. OF ALL THE PROPOSALS THE LAST ONE-MILK AND BEEF  
--SEEMS FARTHEST ALONG. INTEREST OF BDET AND BNT  
WAS PARTICULARLY ENCOURAGING. MERRILL WORKED CLOSELY  
WITH JABEUR AMMAR OF L'OFFICE DE L'ELEVAGE AND DES  
PATURAGES, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. MERRILL AND  
AMMAR AGREED TO COMPLETE A LIST OF WORK ASSIGNMENTS  
ON THIS PROJECT WITH A VIEW TO MERRILL'S FINAL EDI-  
TING OF PROJECT PROFILE AND ITS CONFIDENTIAL CIRCU-  
LATION BY LATE JUNE.

4. DR. GRASBERG CONTINUED THE PRE-FEASIBILITY STUDY  
OF EARLY FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WITH VARIOUS OFFICIAL  
AND PRIVATE TUNISIANS. THIS PROJECT STILL NEEDS ADDI-  
TIONAL WORK, BUT IS TO BE DISCUSSED ON PRELIMINARY  
BASIS WITH CALIFORNIA PRODUCER GROUP. FROZEN FOOD  
PROJECT OTLWVTEREST TO BDET WILL BE BROUGHT TO ATTEN-  
TION OF US TRADE ASSOCIATION BY MERRILL. OTHER PREFEASI-  
BILITY STUDIES ARE EVEN FARTHER FROM COMPLETION.  
USING INFORMATION PROVIDED BY REGIONAL FISHERIES  
ATTACHE FOLSOM, COUNCIL DECIDED THAT FISH CANNING  
PROJECT IS NOT CURRENTLY FEASIBLE.

5. IN ESSENCE, BEEF/MILK PROJECT IS FAR ENOUGH ALONG  
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THAT POTENTIAL AMERICAN INVESTORS MIGHT VISIT TUNIS  
BEFORE THE END OF 1978. NO PLANS HAVE YET BEEN MADE  
FOR HOLDING OF INVESTMENT SEMINAR.  
MULCAHY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRIBUSINESS, VISITS, TRAVEL REPORTS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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